



# THE TALON *F.Y.I.*

VOL 1, NO 2

TASK FORCE EAGLE, TUZLA, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

DEC. 29, 1995

## News Briefs

### Sick call location, hours

Sick call hours for Eagle Base are 8-10 a.m. and 6-8 p.m. at the rear entrance of the base medical facility, Bldg. 30, located across from the fire station. Emergencies will be handled 24 hours a day.

Medical personnel ask that crew served weapons and fragmentation grenades not be brought into the medical treatment area.

For more information, contact Sgts. 1st Class Phillips or Moffat at Ext. 7133.

### Check cashing available

U.S. military and DoD civilian can each cash personal checks at the Eagle Base finance office, located in Bldg. 22, across the street from Eagle Base headquarters.

Check cashing times are Monday and Friday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Available currencies are in U.S. dollars and German Deutsche Marks.

A limit of \$100.00 a week per soldier has been set. Soldiers are advised to allow 30-45 days for the check to clear their bank account.

### AFN radio and television

Armed Forces Network, Europe radio broadcasts can be heard locally on FM 98.1. Daily news is broadcast intermittently from 5-9 a.m., at noon, and at 5 and 6 p.m.

Eagle Base soldiers can watch AFN television broadcasts in bldg. 21, the 3-325th ABCT area.

### The Talon seeking input

If you have information that you would like disseminated to the task force, contact the Task Force Eagle Public Affairs Office in the headquarters building, second floor or come by *The Talon* office adjacent to the main gate.

## Cav crosses Sava River

Troops from the 1st Armored Division's 1st Armored Cavalry Regiment were the first U.S. combat soldiers to cross the Sava River into Northern Bosnia from Hungary, Dec. 26.

The cavalrymen crossed in rafts as local Bosnians cheered and applauded the American unit's arrival.

Army engineers are constructing a pontoon bridge on which the majority of Task Force Eagle's M-1A1 Abrams tanks, M-3

Bradleys Infantry Fighting Vehicles and other military supplies and equipment will enter Croatia.

At Eagle Base in Tuzla, Implementation Force soldiers and equipment continued to pour onto the air base. Currently, about 400 tons of cargo, 40 vehicles and 130 passengers arrive daily.

A total of 20,000-plus U.S. soldiers are expected to be deployed on Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.



A 1st Armored Division HMMWV and a 3/4-ton trailer are driven off

an Air Force C-130 aircraft onto Eagle Base, Tuzla, Dec. 26.

## Eagle Base mail service begins

Unit mail orders can now drop off and pick up mail at the 2-566th Postal Company fest tent near the Eagle Base airfield at 1 p.m. daily.

Persons who want their mail flown out of Eagle Base that day must have it to the 2-566th Postal Company area by 1 p.m.

Mail service is free as long as the package weighs 11 oz. or less. Task Force personnel must write "FREE" in the upper right hand corner of the package where they would normally

place the stamp.

Money orders and stamps are also available for sale.

Soldiers wishing to receive mail at Eagle Base should list their return address as:

*Rank and Name*  
*Unit at Eagle Base*  
*Operation Joint Endeavor*  
*APO AE09789*

Mail going to areas other than Eagle Base requires a different APO address.

## Force protection: A leader/soldier responsibility

As Task Force Eagle begins the 1996 year on a mission of worldwide importance, remembering our priorities is key.

Paramount is accomplishment of the overall mission — To ensure compliance, by all parties, with the provisions of the Dayton, Ohio peace treaty.

Hand-in-hand with mission accomplishment is protection of the task force. Leaders at all levels must ensure their soldiers are kept aware of the local situation and the dangers that exist around them. Both leaders and soldiers must guard against these dangers and other careless acts.

Situational awareness ranges from walking only on cleared roads and trails whenever possible, to ensuring tent heaters are kept at safe settings, to using a ground guide when backing up a vehicle or driving a vehicle through a troop area. It means being on the defensive even when you are right.

Situational awareness also means planning for the unexpected and the worst possible situation that can occur. This type of planning includes sandbagging the sides of tent walls and ensuring bunkers are built where soldiers can easily get to them, carrying extra fuel and water cans on vehicles and extra food and inclement weather gear. It could go as far as grabbing your buddy by the collar and yanking him out of the way of an oncoming vehicle.

Risk assessments are essential to force protection. Before any leader begins to accomplish a task, he or she must determine the level of danger accomplishing that task will present to their soldiers and themselves.



Command Sgt. Maj. Jack L. Tilley

### *From the Top*

Failure to conduct risk assessments increases the possibility that either the leader, or several soldiers, will be injured or killed. Therefore, neither leaders nor soldiers can afford to become complacent in the performance of their daily duties.

As the mission enters its third week, we must force ourselves to accomplish our daily task with the same zeal as if we walked off the aircraft a few hours ago.

The task force has another 9-12 months of peace enforcement duty here in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In the time remaining, it will take a concerted effort by supervisors at all levels and especially by the task force's many noncommissioned officers, to keep watch, keep their guard up, and keep soldiers safe.

Treaty compliance, mission accomplishment and force protection. All three go hand-in-hand in determining our level of success. Failure to accomplish one will result in only partial accomplishment of the other two.

## Healthy New Year's resolution to make and live by

Every year around this time people make a resolution for the coming year. The resolution is normally made in order to break, or limit oneself, from what the resolution-maker considers to be a bad habit.

But, usually after a couple of days, and for some, after a few months, the resolutions are broken and discarded or forgotten as people regress into their same old selves.

But, this year all soldiers can make and keep a New Year's resolution that could possibly be the most meaningful and important resolution previously made.

The resolution is "to do my best to ensure

all my fellow soldiers leave Bosnia-Herzegovina safely, in good health and with all their limbs intact."

If all soldiers of Task Force Eagle make this resolution, we will all be looking out for one another. The resolution will help us guard against careless acts that could cost a fellow soldier his or her life.

Because of the seriousness of this peace-enforcement mission, and the many dangers that exist or could evolve in the next year, failing to keep this New Year's resolution could have tragic consequences that will last a lifetime.

On the other hand, keeping this resolu-



Sgt. 1st Class Ruben Maestas

### *Viewpoint*

tion could have a positive impact because, if everything goes well, we probably won't remember this resolution in years to come.

So challenge yourself! Make this resolution. Keep it. Live by it. And hopefully, we'll all make it home safely.

## THE TALON

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## 621st APS keeps aircraft arriving, departing Tuzla

By Spc. Scott Genticore

Before the C-130 Hercules aircraft comes to a stop on the Eagle Base runway, ground crew personnel are waiting for the tailgate to drop. When it does, the work begins.

The team unloads personnel, equipment and vehicles from the plane. Within a matter of minutes, the plane is airborne and out of sight.

The unloading of the aircraft is at a fast and furious pace to limit the amount of time the plane is on the ground.

"An engine-running off load (ERO) is used primarily to download an aircraft quickly and get out of here as soon as possible," said Senior Airman Patrick Braun, 621st Aerial Port Squadron.

For the airmen of the 621st APS, McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., the scene is replayed more than 30 times a day. Keeping a steady airflow of supplies and equipment to support Task Force Eagle is a mission that the members of the squadron have turned into a smooth-running operation.

On an average day, the squadron unloads approximately 400 tons of cargo, 40 vehicles, and 130 passengers from 30 planes.

According to Squadron Commander, Maj. Michael Friedlein, those figures will rise as the squadron shifts into 24-hour operations.

Different types of equipment can present problems for Air Force personnel who haven't worked with some of the



Spc. Scott Genticore

A member of the Air Force's 621st Aerial Port Squadron guides and Army

2-1/2 ton truck down the tailgate of a C-130 Hercules aircraft at Eagle Base.

equipment in the Army inventory.

Armored personnel carriers, trucks and other equipment such as large snow blowers can take some time to adjust to, according to Braun.

"Back in McGuire, we practiced doing EROs because we usually don't do it that much," said Braun, "It's difficult to practice down loading different equipment when we don't have it. It has been basically on-the-spot learning."

The 621st has worked closely with Army elements at the airfield to overcome the difficulties.

"We have learned a lot of things from

them about the unloading of equipment," Braun said. "There is strong relationship between the two forces."

As the task force mission rolls into January, the airflow is expected to slow down as most of the peace enforcement forces are in place, said Airmen Michael Ronemus. When this occurs, the squadron could be redeployed to the United States.

For Braun, the mission at Eagle Base is a good opportunity to prepare for other possible deployments.

"This has given us good practice," he said. "We'll be ready for any deployments in the future."



Spc. Scott Genticore

Gen. George A. Joulwan, Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, and Maj. Gen. William L. Nash, Task Force Eagle Commander, salute the honor guard at Eagle Base flightline. Joulwan visited the American sector headquarters Dec. 24.



# Task Force medics ready for IFOR's ills

By Spc. Bryan Driver

Winter has come to Eagle Base. Snow has blanketed the landscape and, of course, the sniffles and sneezes of the common cold have started to appear.

Working out of Bldg. 30 on the road to the airfield are medical personnel from the 3rd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry and the Task Force Eagle Assault Command Post. Medics are on call 24-hours a day for emergency care and they also operate a sick call clinic that everyone working on Eagle Base can use. Clinic hours are from 8-10 a.m. and from 6-8 p.m. daily. Soldiers should bring sickcall slips if possible.

"Don't wait until you feel like your on your last leg to come see us," said Sgt. 1st Class Jim Phillips, clinic NCOIC. "Early treatment is the best way to beat any illness. We can at least ease your suffering while your cold works its course."

The clinic staff includes one Air Force flight surgeon, two physician's assistants and 18 medics. They can treat ailments ranging from sprained ankles to severe trauma cases. The most common ailment the medics expect to treat are flu-like symptoms.

Phillips said soldiers can keep themselves from getting sick by tak-



Spc. Bryan Driver

Capt. John DeVine, 3-325th ABCT surgeon, examines the ear of Sgt. Luis

Natac, HHC, 3-325th ABCT, during routine sickcall Dec. 27.

ing a few precautions:

- 1) Sleep head-to-toe. Doing so helps stop the spread of airborne sicknesses.
- 2) Open the windows and allow fresh air in rooms.
- 3) Stay physically fit. If you're in good shape you are less likely to get sick.
- 4) Try to stay dry and warm.

If soldiers sustain life threatening injuries away from Eagle Base, the clinic can deploy Advanced Trauma Life Support teams to the scene. The five-man teams can provide TRIAGE care and evacuate

the casualty back to the field surgical team. If further treatment is needed, patients can be evacuated back to Germany by a 30-man Air Force medical team.

According to clinic personnel, in the next several weeks a full field hospital will be in place to care for soldiers stationed at Eagle Base. Although the current personnel are able to perform treatment up to surgery, the arrival of the 212th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital will allow them the capability to handle large numbers of surgical patients.

## Chaplain's Corner

### Weekly Prayer



Father God,

*As we stand on the threshold of a New Year, we ask for your gracious presence to guide us in our efforts to promote peace. Encourage us with the knowledge that the work of peace is your work and in pursuing peace we honor you.*

*Be present with our families and loved ones. Hold them in your comforting hands and grant them your peace. Protect them from all harm and fill their hearts with joy.*

*In your Holy Name we pray,  
Amen.*

### Religious services

Religious services at Eagle Base are conducted in Bldg. 28 at the following dates and times:

**Catholic:** Monday-Friday, noon.  
Saturday, 8 p.m.  
Sunday, 10 a.m.

A Mass will be conducted once-a-week at the outposts of the Eagle Base perimeter.

**Protestant:** Sunday, 11 a.m.  
Sunday, 8 p.m.

Classes on basic Christian doctrine will be taught Mondays at 8 p.m. A prayer meeting will be conducted Wednesdays at 8 p.m.. Bible study will be conducted Fridays at 8 p.m..

**Jewish:** Friday, 6 p.m.

### Quick Takes

#### New dining facility hours

The Eagle Base dining facility is now serving T-rations, augmented with some A-rations, for breakfast and supper.

Soldiers can eat breakfast from 6:30-9:30 a.m. and supper from 5:30-7:30 p.m.. MREs will be eaten for lunch.

#### Barber shop open

The Eagle Base barber shop is open to all Task Force Eagle soldiers free of charge. The barber shop hours are:

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Closed from noon to 1 p.m.  
Saturday, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Sunday, closed.